Legislation for Regulating Lotteries

*140. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:†

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation before Parliament for regulating lotteries organised by Government agencies, including State Government agencies, under entry 40 of List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for not providing proper regulatory legislation for State and Central Government lotteries, when small savings amounting to crores of rupees of the poor are being spent under the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Comprehensive guidelines for regulating the conduct and operations of such lotteries had been issued to State Governments and Union Territories in June, 1984. These, inter-alia, provide for ceiling on prizes, prices of tickets and certain checks regarding printing of tickets, holding of draws.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chandrasekhar Reddy. No supplementary... All right. Yes, Mr. Bhandare.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Madam, I must thank the Opposition for giving me this very enviable distinction of asking the last question. May I know whether the Government would consider it advisable to have a Central legislation instead of giving guidelines to the States and Union territories as has been mentioned in the answer?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, there is no proposal at present for having any Central legislation because the guidelines are there and all the State Governments and the Union territories are conforming to those guidelines.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Crisis in the textile industry in West Bengal

*121. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry in West Bengal is at present in deep crisis accentuated by closures, lockouts and widespread retrenchment of workers in the textile mills;

(b) if so, what are the details of the various aspects of the crisis; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to lift the industry from the morass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The following mills in West Bengal were lying closed as on 31st May, 1987:—

(1) India Linoleums Limited, (Victoria Divn.) Chusshry, Howrah.

(2) Shree Durga Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited, (West Bengal).

(3) Sri Hanuman Cotton Mills, Flueshwar, Howrah.

(4) Bangodaya Cotton Mills, 24, Paraganas, Panihatti.

(5) Kesoram Industries and Cotton Mills Limited, Calcutta.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri T. Chandrasekhar Reddy.

2. Government have set up a Nodal Agency to examine sick textile mills in order to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and oversees the implementation of the rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable units. A Textile Modernisation Fund has also been set up to provide assistance to the industry to enable it to modernise itself. A Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund has also been set up to provide financial assistance to the workers of those mills which closed down permanently on or after 6th June, 1985.

Talks with Bangladesh on T.N.V. Extremists

*122. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement of Bangladesh Foreign Minister to the effect that till now there had been no coperation between India and Bangladesh about Tripura National Volunteers and that India had never sought their assistance in tackling T.N.V. extremism; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction to the said assertion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any such statement having been made by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

Closed textile mills in Bombay

*123. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of closed textile mills in Bombay has increased recently;

(b) if so, what was the number of closed textile mills at the end of December, 1986 and as on 1st July, 1987; and

(c) what are Government's proposals to protect the interests of workers in these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of closed cotton textile mills in Bombay at the end of December, 1986 and on 1st July, 1987 was 3 and 5 respectively.

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government have set up a Nodal Agency to ascertain the viability or otherwise of sick textile mills. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages in respect of those mills which are found to be potentially viable. Mills found to be non-viable may have to close down permanently. The workers of those mills which close down permanently on or after 6th June, 1985 will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme. A Textile Modernisation Fund has also been set up to provide financial assistance for the modernisation needs of textile mills.

Attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy

*125. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Indian fishermen were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy since the outbreak of ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka along with the dates of such incidents;

(b) how many Indian fishermen were killed/injured in each such incident;